

Los Angeles County Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

:: NEWS BULLETIN ::

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE *BUYER BEWARE PROGRAM* IS GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT:
INSPECTORS FINDING FEWER OVERCHARGES**

ALSO: LISTING OF LATEST COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES

The County Sealer of Weights and Measures, announced today that the Los Angeles County *Buyer Beware Program* implemented last year by the Board of Supervisors, appears to be having its desired effect reducing the amount of scanner overcharging in the retail marketplace. "It is still early," said Cato R. Fiksdal, "but comparing the numbers for the latest four months with the first four months of the program, is very encouraging."

During the first four months of the program, February through May 2002, inspectors were overcharged on one or more items in 32% of the stores they shopped. That number fell to 17% of the stores visited during May through August 2003. The percent of individual items of merchandise on which inspectors were overcharged fell from 6% to 3%. Finally, in comparing the amount of money the inspectors were overcharged as a percent of the total amount of money spent, there was a seven-fold reduction. The results compare undercover shopping inspections at 407 stores during the first four months with 1622 inspections during the last four months.

"We're going to be watching the numbers carefully, to see if the trend continues. Our inspections show that among several large chain stores, the incidence of overcharging is significantly reduced," said Mr. Fiksdal. "The combination of our public awareness efforts, industry response, a strong enforcement posture, and the Board of Supervisors' *Buyer Beware Program* appears to be the right approach at the right time, and is having the desired effect: savings and increased consumer confidence."

Listed below are cases that were recently completed:

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1. **Albertson's Inc., #6359, 9022 Balboa Blvd., Northridge**
Date of offense: 7/16/02
Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharges (\$5.16)
Convictions: 4 counts, nolo contendere
Fines, penalties, and fees: \$170.00
Case #2PN0536301
2. **Albertson's Inc., #6197, 3400 South Street, Lakewood**
Date of offense: 8/14/02
Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharges (\$1.88)
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere
Fines, penalties, and fees: \$575.00
Case #2LC04078
3. **All American Home Center, Inc., 7201 E. Firestone Blvd, Downey**
Date of offense: 8/05/02
Charges: 5 counts of scanner overcharges (\$25.65)
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere
Fines, penalties, and fees: \$1,216.00
Case #2DW0627
4. **Big Lots #9242., 1401-B Huntington Dr., S. Pasadena**
Date of offense: 2/11/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine for one overcharge of \$1.00 or less
File #02/03-SP093
5. **Calimex Super Mercado., 2901 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles**
Date of offense: 3/12/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine for one overcharge of \$1.00 or less
File #02/03-SP094
6. **Home Depot #6614., 5000 Hardwick Street., Lakewood**
Date of offense: 8/15/02
Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge (\$4.30)
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere
Fines, penalties, and fees: -0-
Case #2LC04084

7. J. C. Penney #699., 333 W. Colorado Blvd., Glendale

Date of offense: 3/07/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharge (\$18.37)

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties, and fees: \$1,485.00

Case #2GL03302

8. LA Curacao 8619 Garfield Ave., South Gate

Date of offense: 8/07/02

Charges: 6 counts of scanner overcharges (\$48.44)

Convictions: 5 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties, and fees: \$1,676.00

Case #2DW06087

9. MACY'S #75, 2100 Galleria Way, Glendale

Date of offense: 3/07/02

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharges (\$50.49)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties, and fees: \$2,835.00

Case #2GL03301

10. Marshall #474, 564 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

Date of offense: 5/8/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharges (\$84.99)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties, and fees: \$945.00

Case #3SA00019

11. Nordstrom #340, 200 W. Broadway, Glendale

Date of offense: 3/19/02

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharges (\$72.50)

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$1,485.00

Case #2GL0435

12. Rite Aid #5609., 9450 Las Tunas Dr., Temple City

Date of offense: 12/15/02

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine for one overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #02/03-SP095

13. Robinsons- May #24, 6050 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City

Date of offense: 1/5/02

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge (\$5.08)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$945.00

Case #2WL16754

14. Robinsons- May #47., 2195 Glendale Galleria, Glendale

Date of offense: 4/04/03

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge (\$8.01)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$910.00

Case #2GL04350

15. Sav-On Drugs #9405, 3880 W. Rosecrans Ave., Hawthorne

Date of offense: 2/11/02

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$5.59)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$1,225.00

Case #3WL13545

16. Sav - On Drugs #9504, 8008 Firestone Blvd., Downey

Date of offense: 8/01/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharges (\$4.50)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$946.00

Case #3DW06084

17. Sav-On Drugs #9518, 12618 Studebaker Road., Norwalk

Date of offense: 9/11/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharges (\$7.80)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$946.00

Case #3DW06085

18. 7-Eleven #2541, 6915 N. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel

Date of offense: 1/09/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine for one overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #02/03-SP092

19. Shoe Fantasy, Inc. 2274 Honolulu Ave., Montrose

Date of offense: 2/20/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine for one overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #02/03-SP096

20. Smart & Final #333, 10910 Long Beach Blvd. Lynwood

Date of offense: 6/29/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharges (\$2.55)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$540.00

Case #3CM09482

21. Sportmart #638, 11900 South Street, Cerritos

Date of offense: 2/27/02

Charges: 6 counts of scanner overcharges (\$69.00)

Convictions: 4 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$3,375.00

Case #2LC01752

22. Staples #107, 1450 S. Mountain Ave., Duarte

Date of offense: 5/07/02

Charges: 2 counts of scanner overcharges (\$11.76)

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$1,215.00

Case #3SA00015

23. Target #190, 5700 Firestone Blvd., South Gate

Date of offense: 8/06/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharges (\$15.11)

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$1,350.00

Case #3DW06086

24. Whole Food Market #5, 826 N. Glendale Ave., Glendale

Date of offense: 3/7/02

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharges (\$2.90)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines, penalties and fees: \$1,080.00

Case #2GL03303

